09
OBSERVATORY ON CULTURE/CULTURAL HERITAGE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Urban Agenda for the EU

Observatory on culture/cultural heritage and climate change in the urban framework

Action 9

UNIONE EUROPEA
Fondi Strutturali e di Investimento Europei

URBAN AGENDA FOR THE EU

pon metro

Action Leader:
Ministry of Culture (MIC), Italy
In cooperation with: Fondazione Scuola dei beni e delle attività culturali, Italy

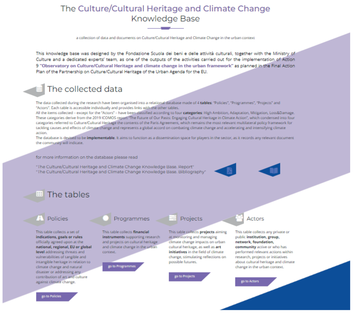
Action Group Members:
Action Group Members
City of Bordeaux
Flanders Heritage
Silesia Region
Cyprus Ministry of Interior
URBACT
ICLEI
JRC
Supported by:
Italian Agency for Territorial Cohesion, German Ministry of Interior

International experts involved:
Andrew Potts, ICOMOS and Climate Heritage Network
Paolo Vitti, Associate professor of the practice, University of Notre Dame School of Architecture

Main objectives

The Action aims at addressing the need of bringing together national, regional and local authorities, together with the research sector, stakeholders, professional and civil society organisations, in order to analyse needs, risks and opportunities for culture and cultural heritage in the framework of climate change. It makes reference to the European Green Deal and other main political and strategic frameworks, on the one hand, and the role of urban authorities, with specific reference to local climate adaptation plans, on the other.
The goal of the Action is preparing the background for a problem-solving-oriented European multi-level, multi-stakeholder Observatory on culture/cultural heritage and climate change in the urban framework. The approach adopted is multidisciplinary, and the principles that oriented the work were creating synergies, avoiding duplication of efforts, capitalizing on lessons learnt, on experiences on the ground and on work already done.

Main outcomes



THE DATABASE

In order to collect, describe and share policies, programmes, projects and actors in the area of culture and cultural heritage in relation to climate change in the urban context, a database was designed, developed and published online. It gives access to the description of 140 policies, 40 programmes, 180 projects, and 250 actors and their mutual relations. Items were classified according to the four categories adopted by ICOMOS report "The Future of Our Past" (ICOMOS 2019): High Ambition, Mitigation, Adaptation, and Loss & Damage, a framework derived from climate policy and the Paris Agreement. This framework is useful both in order to emphasize how culture and cultural heritage fit into climate policy frameworks, and to make information more accessible to operators from climate, land use and related sectors.

https://www.fondazionescuolapatrimonio.it/innovazione-e-sperimentazione/the-culture-cultural-heritage-and-climate- change-knowledge-base/)

THE ROUNDTABLE

Six experts were invited to bring their point of view on possible strategies to unleash the potential of culture and cultural heritage for addressing climate change, along three key questions:

- Individual or collective responsibility? Which focus enables a most effective communication?
- Data or scenarios? Can awareness-raising and behavioural change be improved through adding to statistical data, received by the human cognitive sphere, the imaginary of future scenarios? Is there a role to play for culture?
- "Loss and damage" is one of four categories of climate action, when adaptation to climate change is no longer possible. Is the perspective of not being able to preserve the whole cultural heritage acceptable? Are there any good alternatives to this perspective?

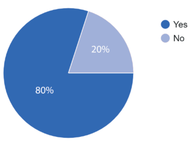
About 300 people registered for the workshop; the video recording is available online at the following url: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wi95BJogRO4&t=3969s, where it was viewed so far by over 200 people.

Main results

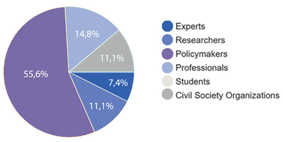
BUILDING THE NETWORK

Alongside with action members, around 40 experts and main actors in the area of culture, cultural heritage and climate change in the urban framework were actively involved in the discussion via individual interviews based on a questionnaire developed on purpose. Valuable and complementary expert points of view were thus gathered from representatives of local governments, research organisations, European projects and initiatives, professionals, civil society organisations.
The exercise also helped to investigate the interest and feasibility of setting up a European observatory on climate change, culture and cultural heritage in the urban context, its possible functions and target public. Most of the respondents expressed their interest in participating in the initiative and outlined their possible contribution.

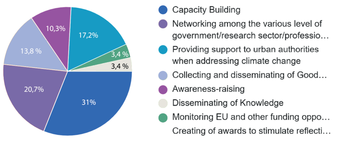
1. Relevance of the Observatory at the EU level



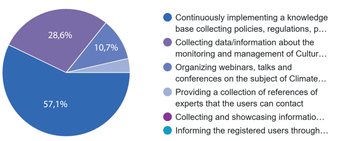
2. Target users



3. Functions



POSSIBLE STRUCTURE AND LEGAL BODY

Observatory usually define aggregations aimed at pursuing common goals and do not correspond to specific organisational or legal forms. Keeping the observatory informal, as a forum or a network, or embedding it within one or more existing organisations, would reduce the administrative, organisational and managerial burden to a minimum. However, this would greatly limit the agency of the Observatory and prevent it from having a full legal capacity, entering into agreements, receiving funding for developing and providing services, etc., which would only be possible if an autonomous entity provided with a legal personality is established.
A preliminary survey of the options for a legal form of the Observatory was made; it consists in a review and comparative analysis of the legal regime and governance structure of three types of legal bodies in the legal systems of five EU MS. Summarising the outcome, the following are suggested as the most suitable options: Voluntary Association (limited legal capacity); Voluntary Registered Association; Foundation. The choice will depend on the purpose of the organisation (profit or not-for-profit), the activities and funding mechanisms envisaged, etc.

4. Activities